

AGENDA



Thursday, March 27, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 32**

Subject: Approve ratification of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement with UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN to provide consulting services on the use of polymers at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Facility in an amount not to exceed \$47,700.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Stephen Aden, Supervising Senior Buyer, 974-2021.

Purchasing Language: Interlocal Agreement.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is an interlocal agreement; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

The consultant, the University of Texas, will research, study, summarize findings, and give recommendations to the Austin Water Utility on ways to lower the amount of polymer used at the City's Hornsby Bend Biosolids Facility for sludge thickening.

The Hornsby Bend facility uses polymer to thicken wastewater treatment sludge before use in composting. The amount of the polymer used per dry ton of sludge has risen dramatically in the last three years. This study will look at implementation issues associated with the recommendations of a previous study, including helping to oversee trials of operational changes for the use of the thickeners and belt presses at Hornsby Bend. In addition, laboratory-scale digesters will be operated under a variety of conditions including reduced influent solids concentration and reduced detention time to determine the effects on solids destruction and dewaterability of the sludges. On the basis of these laboratory studies, recommendations on possible changes to the operation of the anaerobic digesters at Hornsby Bend will be made. If such changes are implemented on a trial basis at the plant during the course of this study, the consultant will help oversee the required data acquisition to judge the merits of the trial.

The final product of the study will be a series of findings and recommendations on how to lower the amount of polymer used at the facility.

The start date for this project was September 1, 2007. Under the contract, the City may pay after receipt of the final deliverable. This was originally executed as an agreement within the City Charter provision authorizing the City Manager to contract for expenditures below a defined amount, and this contract was below that defined amount. However, the contract has been identified as one that should be processed as an interlocal agreement, and is being recommended as such.